

First, in rural areas of the west you cannot depend on local broadcasting in a timely manner for weather and road reports. You turn to a station and get the tail end of a forecast and then have to wait an hour for the next report. At least with XM radio you can get continuous weather reports for geographic areas without surfing the dial. I am hoping XM has the ability to expand the local reporting to more areas in the west.

Second, large corporate communications companies, e.g. Clear Channel, are literally taking over the small markets in the country. So, why should corporate monsters be allowed to build a monopoly at the expense of what listeners really want. XM allows that freedom of choice and that is what this country is all about -- the freedom to choose. Any further regulation will limit this free choice!

Third, I choose to pay for satellite radio for the services it offers. I also choose not to pay for cable or satellite TV for the services that do not interest me. My choice to pay is governed by the services I desire and receive and the government should not be in a position to dictate what services I can or cannot buy. Allow the market to determine what consumers desire -- not the NAB!

Therefore, I strongly oppose any effort to restrict XM radio from broadcasting local weather and traffic information and urge you to reject the NAB Petition 04-160!